

Message Text

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61

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 191540Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8046

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FOR, UR

SUBJECT: PRAVDA REBUKES THE PCF

1. PRAVDA DECEMBER 19 STRUCK BACK AT FRENCH TELEVISION FOR ITS RECENT FILM ON SOVIET POLITICAL PRISONERS IN LABOR CAMPS, AND AT THE PCF--THOUGH WITHOUT NAMING IT--FOR "WITTINGLY OR UNWITTINGLY" PROMOTING THE SENSATIONALISM OF THIS "ANTISOVIET ATTACK."

2. THE BRIEF THOUGH OBVIOUSLY AUTHORITATIVE ARTICLE,
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TITLED "CRUDE FALSIFICATION," IS SIGNED BY V. ALEKSEYEV-

PROBABLY A PSEUDONYM. ALEKSEYEV EXPRESSES SURPRISE THAT FRENCH TELEVISION WOULD SHOW SUCH A "CANARD," PROTESTING THAT SUCH "FALSIFICATIONS" WERE NOT BELIEVABLE FOR THE BROAD MASSES IN THE WEST EVEN DURING THE FORTIES AND FIFTIES. HE CHARGES THAT FRENCH TELEVISION "INCREASINGLY OFTEN" IS ALLOWING ITSELF TO MAKE "THE FILTHIEST ANTI-SOVIET AND ANTICOMMUNIST ATTACKS," EVEN THOUGH THE INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE HAS IMPROVED AND FRENCH-SOVIET RELATIONS "HAVE ACQUIRED A CONSTRUCTIVE CHARACTER."

3. ALEKSEYEV WRITES THAT "EVEN MORE SURPRISING, HOWEVER, IS THAT CERTAIN PEOPLE WHO IN THE PAST HAVE ALWAYS GIVEN A WORTHY REFUFF TO ANTISOVIETISM AND ANTI-COMMUNISM HAVE ACCEPTED ON FAITH THIS LATEST PROVOCATION BY ANTISOVIETS AND ANTICOMMUNISTS, AND, IN SO DOING, HAVE WITTINGLY OR UNWITTINGLY AIDED THE FURTHER SENSATIONALIZATION OF THIS ANTISOVIET ATTACK."

4. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE PCF POLITBURO ORIGINATED THE STATEMENT CALLING FOR THE SOVIETS TO ANSWER THE TELEVISION PROGRAM'S CHARGES, AND WE THEREFORE ASSUME THAT THIS REBUTTAL MAY BE AIMED AT THAT BODY. THIS PUBLIC CRITICISM OF THE PCF--THE FIRST, ACCORDING TO THE FRENCH EMBASSY HERE, IN A GOOD MANY YEARS--HAS BEEN OCCASIONED NOT ONLY BY THE TELEVISION PROGRAM AND ITS AFTERMATH, BUT ALSO BY THE MARCHAIS-BERLINGUER NOVEMBER 17 STATEMENT, THE NOVEMBER ECPC SESSION WHEN THE FRENCH REPORTEDLY JOINTED THE "SOUTHERN" PARTIES, THE PCF STATEMENT ON SOVIET DISSIDENT PLYUSHCH, CPSU-PCF FRICTION OVER THE GISCARD VISIT AND OVER SOVIET ECPC CONCESSIONS WHICH CUT ACROSS THE PCF HARD LINE BETWEEN AUGUST AND EARLY OCTOBER ... THE LIST IS A LONG ONE. THE KREMLIN SEEMS TO HAVE DECIDED THAT THE PCF RUCKUS OVER THE LABOR CAMPS ON FRENCH TV WAS THE LAST STRAW, AND THAT SOME REPLY HAD TO BE MADE. BUT THE RELATIVELY MILD LANGUAGE CHOSEN PROBABLY RESULTS FROM THE EVEN MORE PRESSING NEED--SOVIET IRRITATION NOTWITHSTANDING--TO AVOID DIRECT OFFENSE OF MARCHAIS AND THE PCF AT A TIME WHEN PREPARATIONS FOR THE ECPC CONTINUE TO CAUSE MOSCOW CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY. NEVERTHELESS, THE ALEKSEYEV ARTICLE HAS ESCALATED THIS INTER-PARTY FRICTION TO THE LEVEL OF PUBLIC RECRIMINATION, AND IT IS HARD TO SEE HOW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IT WILL MAKE THE PATH TO AN ECPC ANY SMOOTHER.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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